

F. No. 43-Econ/48.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

ECONOMY COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

New Delhi, the 7th June, 1948

From

G. S. RAU Esquire,

Secretary, Economy Committee, New Delhi.

To

The Secretary

Ministry of Finance,

Govt. of India, New Delhi.

*Interim Report of the Economy Committee on the Ministries of States
and Law and the Cabinet Secretariat.*

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy each of the Interim Report of the Economy Committee on the Ministries of States and Law and the Cabinet Secretariat.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

G. S. RAU.

MINISTRY OF LAW

Interim report of the Economy Committee on the Ministry of Law.

The Law Ministry, at present, consists of 1 Secretary, 1 Officer on Special Duty (Reforms), 1 Joint Secretary, 1 Joint Secretary and Draftsman, 3 Deputy Secretaries and 3 Assistant Secretaries.

2. Recently the officer on Special Duty (Reforms) has taken over as Secretary and the Reforms Branch will practically have no important work till such time as the constitutional problems arising in the wake of the passing of the Constitution Act come to be tackled. The Committee consider that this Branch should be disbanded. Its personnel may perhaps find place in the Constituent Assembly Secretariat; but this is a matter for the Law Ministry to settle.

3. (a): There will be a Secretary, a Joint Secretary, 2 Deputy Secretaries and two Assistant Secretaries for looking after the advice, Legislative and other work.

(b): Recently the Drafting Branch has been re-constructed to consist of a Draftsman, who will be paid on a special scale, slightly above that of a Joint Secretary; an Additional Draftsman who will be paid on a scale of Rs. 1,800—50—2,250 just above that of a Deputy Secretary; and a Deputy Draftsman on the scale of pay of a Deputy Secretary.

This will mean the surrender of one post of a Deputy Secretary, one Assistant Secretary and one Junior Legal Officer who was paid approximately in the grade of a Superintendent. The clerical strength will be fixed as below:—

Posts	Present	Proposed	Reduction
Superintendents	7	5	2
Assistants.	33	24	9
Clerks	39	32	7

4. The Fuel Supply Organisation will be disbanded.

5. The winding up of the Military Pensions Appellate Tribunal is under examination. Till such time as a decision is taken on this question, 1 Superintendent, 4 Assistants and 2 Clerks, at present employed in this Branch, will be allowed to carry on temporarily.

6. No change is proposed in the Solicitors' Branch. The officers accordingly will be 1 Solicitor, 1 Second Solicitor and 2 Assistant Solicitors on a permanent basis and 1 Assistant Solicitor temporarily up to 31st March, 1949 to deal with claims arising out of War contracts.

7. The Committee consider that four out of five of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunals which have been created under statutory provisions, can be placed on a permanent footing.

8. It is anticipated that of the four Tribunals under the Criminal Law Amendment Act at present working, the Second Tribunal at Calcutta will complete its work by the end of June. The First Tribunal at Calcutta and the East Punjab Tribunals, Simla, are likely to continue for some time more. As regards the First Tribunal at Calcutta it is understood that the Provincial Government have since passed an Act similar to the Criminal Law Amendment Act and cases are being referred to this Tribunal under the Provincial Act. The Committee consider that this Tribunal should hereafter be a charge on the Provincial Revenues if it will function only for cases arising out of the Provincial Act. The Committee are informed that the Tribunal at Bombay has not been functioning, because the Bombay Government has not yet appointed the two members of this Tribunal, although the Government of India have appointed the President and it is some months since he took charge. The Committee consider that the Government of Bombay should be asked to appoint the Member immediately so that the Tribunal will commence its work as soon as possible.

9. The two staff cars, at present in use in Calcutta by the Second Tribunal should be surrendered.

10. There are certain posts attached to various Ministries which, in the opinion of the Committee, should be brought under the Law Ministry even if for facility of work the officer is located in another Ministry, e.g., the officer on Special Duty for preparing Merchant Shipping Law in the Commerce Department, a few more in the Defence Department and the Law Officer in the Information and Broadcasting Department. There is also a Legal Adviser attached to the External Affairs Ministry for dealing with treaties. Such isolated appointments, allowed *ad hoc* to other Ministries, vitiate uniformity of control, direction and responsibility, and the Committee consider that whenever an occasion arises for giving legal assistance to a particular Ministry, the officer should form part of the Law Ministry though allowed to work in another place.)

11. With the surrender of a Deputy Secretary's post, the remaining officers and staff of the Ministry now in Simla should be brought down to New Delhi. It has been represented, to us that with the reductions now envisaged it will be essential to have the office compactly located in New Delhi. The Committee recommend that, in the interest of efficient and economic working this should be done.

12. The number of Stenographers in the Law Ministry should be 11. H. M. and Officers of the rank of Secretary and Joint Secretary and the Chief Whip will each have personal Stenographers and the other officers will have a pool of Stenographers on which to draw when necessary. The Additional Draftsman and the Deputy Draftsman will, however, as a special case, be given personal Stenographers because of the special nature of their work.

Four Reporters, at present working in the Ministry of Law should be transferred either to the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) or Constituent Assembly (India).

13. As regards class IV personnel, the Committee favour the introduction of the Messenger System. This consists mainly of employing young and literate persons who will go round to various rooms, collect papers from there and distribute them to the section or officer for which they

are intended. On this basis the number of peons attached to the Law Ministry is being curtailed from 94 to 21 including 2 for the Honourable Minister and 1 for the Secretary and one for the Chief Whip who alone should be allowed personal class IV servants. This figure will be achieved only when the Simla staff is also brought down to New Delhi. Till such time 3 class IV personnel may be allowed for the staff located at Simla.

14. No change is proposed in the branch of the Advocate General of India.

15. The savings as per these proposals will be as given in the statement below:—

DEMAND FOR GRANT NO. 15.

	Present Strength	Proposed Strength	Reduction	Budget 1948-49.	Savings per annum on implemen- tation of recommen- dations.
				Rs.	Rs.
Officers including Superintendents	28	20	8	5,57,100	1,13,000
Staff including Class IV Servants	186	89	97	3,16,400	1,28,000
Other Charges				46,500	9,000
TOTAL				9,20,000	2,50,000

KASTURBHAI LALBHAI, *Chairman*

B. DAS.
ISHWAR DAYAL.
JAIPAL SINGH.
S. K. PATIL. } *Members.*

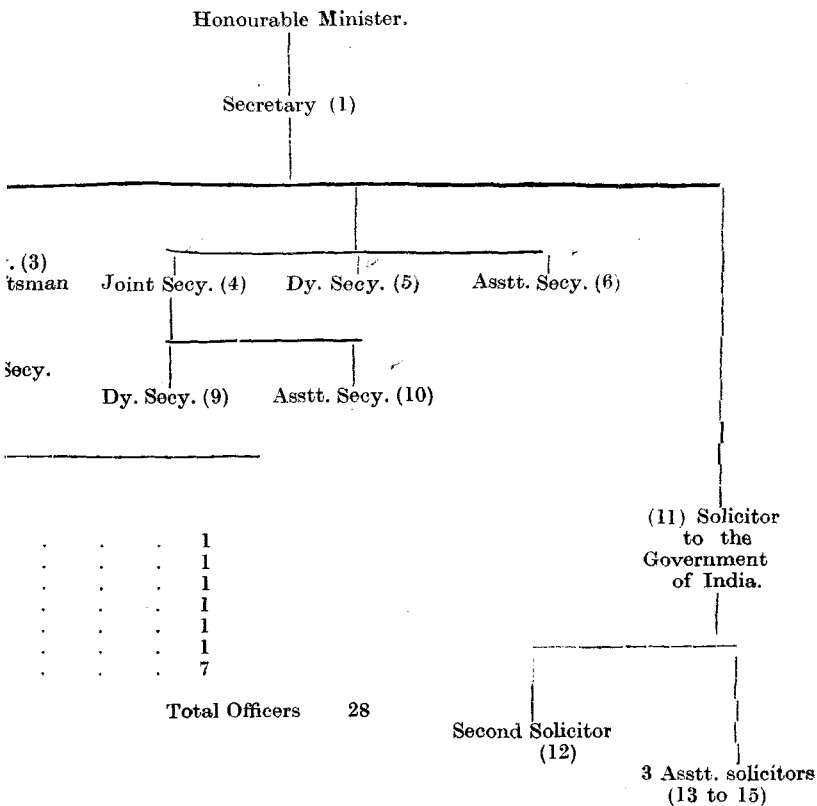
G. S. RAU,

Secretary.

New Delhi, the 7th June, 1948.

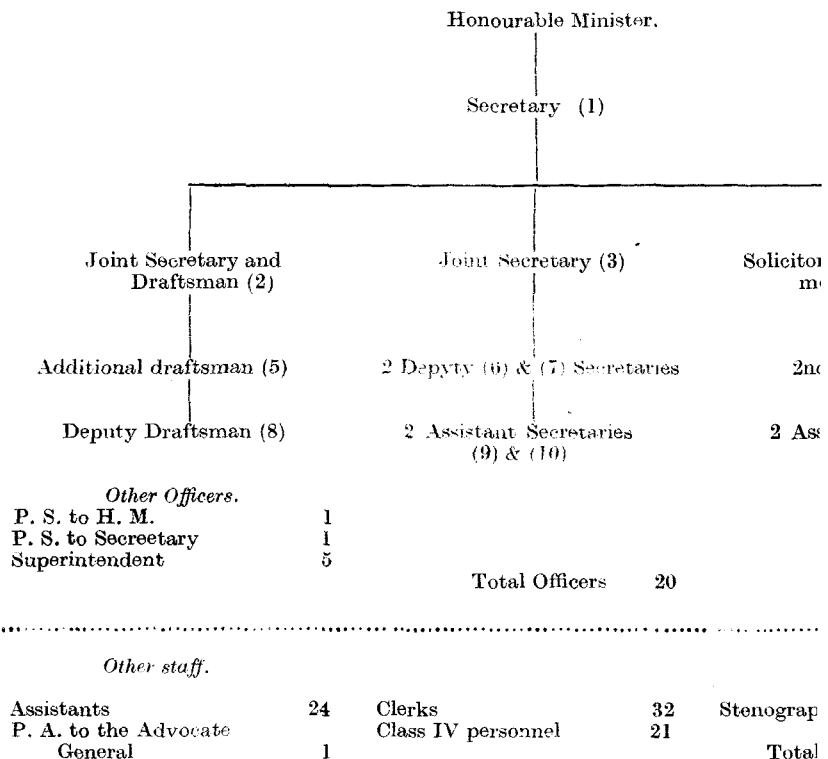
MINISTRY OF LAW

ing set up.



Clerks 39 Accountant 1
Salesmen 4 Stenographers 8
Class IV staff 94
Total staff 186
n.—21.4.49—200

proposed set up.



NOTE.—The post of Secretary to the Leader of the House (Chief Whip) will continue included in the set up as this post is not strictly speaking a Secretariat post.

*2. The revised set up given above excludes the following temporary posts

Assistant Solicitor 1 Superintendent 1
Assistants 4
Clerks 2
Class IV Staff 3

(*please see paragraph 5, 6, and 13 of the Interim Rep.)